

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS BEECHERL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Louis Beecherl, a great Dallas businessman, political activist, philanthropist, and community servant. Mr. Beecherl, who passed away on July 5th, 2011, was a founding member and CEO of Texas Oil & Gas Corp. from 1957–1977, was appointed chairman of the University of Texas Board of Regents in 1987, and was most recently the owner of Beecherl Holdings.

In 2002, Mr. Beecherl was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame and is recognized as being a leader in expanding Texas' economy. He also devoted his time and resources as a GOP benefactor, supporting various political campaigns, and the National Republican Congressional Committee. Furthermore, Mr. Beecherl will be remembered as a community servant and has been involved in countless organizations. He has served as President of the Boy Scouts of America Circle Ten Council, was as an Advisory Board Member of the Salvation Army in Dallas County, and has served as the Chair of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Capital Campaign Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to remember the life of Louis Beecherl; a great Texan, businessman, and above all, a devoted husband and father. It is my privilege to have this opportunity to honor his life and legacy.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I voted for H. Res. 268 because I believe in the bill's underlying premise of a negotiated two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and bring enduring stability to the region. I have always used my voice and my vote to promote peace in the Middle East. Too many lives have been lost and too much violence has been wrought to do anything else. Citizens throughout the region deserve better.

However, my vote is not without reservations about the provisions in this resolution. At this moment of incredible regional volatility, we should be encouraging the President to deploy America's full diplomatic capacity to pursue peace in the region not discourage recognition of a Palestinian state, as this resolution does. We should be encouraging the promotion of stability and dialogue with all parties involved, not discouraging assistance to the Palestinians, as this resolution does. And we should be calling on every actor involved to be a serious broker for peace.

I just traveled to the Middle East and saw firsthand the need for a sustainable two-state solution. The question I came away with is: What can be done to bring a just and lasting

peace? While I hope that this resolution can bring us closer to a peaceful solution, I fear that it leaves too many hard questions unanswered and too many issues unaddressed.

While I voted for this resolution, I will also continue to support a constructive dialogue that can bring this conflict to a permanent end. The time for peace is now. We cannot wait a moment longer.

IN HONOR OF ROAD RAGE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Road Rage Awareness Week—a week created by Reaching Out Against Road Rage, Inc. to encourage safer driving practices and to prevent unnecessary violence on the roads.

Reaching Out Against Road Rage, Inc., or R.O.A.R.R. is a nonprofit organization located in Muskegon County, Michigan. R.O.A.R.R. was established by Kay Foster-Shabazz, two years after the death of her twenty year-old daughter, Diyaamond, in a road rage related incident in 2002. Since its establishment, the mission of R.O.A.R.R. has been to prevent road rage, protect and support victims of road rage and to promote the saving of lives.

R.O.A.R.R. has been working to reduce the number of road rage related incidents by promoting awareness and providing educational tools. In addition, R.O.A.R.R. pledges to assist victims and their families throughout the recovery process by providing a multitude of resources.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Road Rage Awareness Week, July 10–16, 2011. The hard work of Reaching Out Against Road Rage, Inc. has made the roads safer for everyone.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to address an important issue affecting the domestic renewable energy industry. As the House continues consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2012, it is important to carefully examine the Department's investment in renewable energy products, and what effect their investments have on the U.S. economy.

The U.S. Department of Defense is required to abide by the Buy American Act when purchasing goods and equipment, including solar panels. However, the Department is utilizing alternative financing vehicles, such as Power

Purchase Agreements, PPA's, to fund renewable energy technology installations on its bases and buildings. Under such agreements, a private developer finances, installs, and maintains the solar installation for the life of the technology and leases the power to the military facility. This financing structure is beneficial to the Department, as it allows the Department to meet its renewable energy goals, requires no upfront capital costs, and allows a private entity to take advantage of tax incentives not available to government purchasers, all with little risk to the taxpayer.

However, PPA's allow the private entity to purchase the solar technology and the Buy American Act does not apply. This is a loophole in the Buy American Act that foreign manufacturers, in particular highly subsidized Chinese solar panel manufacturers, have quickly exploited to deploy foreign-made solar technology on U.S. government property.

For this reason, DOD should review their procurement and payment for power policies. These decisions impact the U.S. solar industry, and our nation's energy security. Installing highly subsidized foreign solar technology on DOD property or a facility owned by the Department had the unintended consequence of pushing domestic solar manufacturing technology offshore and puts our nation in the position of remaining dependent on foreign energy resources. We must ensure our military does not unintentionally transition our country from one dependent on Middle East oil to one heavily reliant on Chinese renewable energy. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to mark a great day in the history of democracy, a great day for Africa, and a great day for the United States.

On Saturday, July 9th, the Republic of South Sudan becomes Africa's 54th country and the world's newest nation. This is an outcome that would likely have been inconceivable for most Sudanese only a few years ago. South Sudan's declaration of independence is a testament to their resolve and determination to be free.

The United States should also be proud of this momentous achievement, and I would like to congratulate the Obama Administration and the Bush Administration for maintaining the vision and unwavering commitment to stand with the people of this great new country through their struggle. I am thrilled that the White House has sent a high level delegation, led by Ambassador Susan Rice, to the burgeoning new capital of South Sudan, to celebrate with our newest ally.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell will accompany Ambassador Rice. I'm pleased that our colleague Congressman DONALD PAYNE, a leader of the Sudan Caucus and a forceful advocate for Sudanese self determination, will be with the delegation, as will the senior diplomats Johnnie Carson and Princeton Lyman who have worked to make this day